26th September 1955]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The delay in the acquisition proceedings is due to the fact that, while originally it was proposed to take action under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, it was later considered desirable to acquire the land under the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1954. A notification under section 3 (1) of the latter Act declaring the land as a "slum area" has been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 24th August 1955. The land will be acquired soon, after following the procedure laid down in the Act.

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI : In view of the fact that there is an urgent necessity for these slum-dwellers for getting a safeguard from the Government against eviction, will the Government see that some amount is allotted from the revenue funds and that this slum area is acquired urgently?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Steps necessary for the purpose are being taken and the cost of acquisition will be borne by the Government in the first instance.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the proceedings of acquisition through the Collector of Madras or through the department involve unusual delay? Therefore, will the Government empower the Commissioner of the Corporation to negotiate privately with the owners of this land and thus quicken the pace of acquisition in the interests of the slum-dwellers?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The Government, in the first instance, tried to bring about an amicable settlement between the tenants and the owners unofficially, but the owners took steps to evict the tenants through court proceedings.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions Nos. 2475, 2476, 2484, 2488 and 2489 will be taken up on the 28th as the Hon. the Minister for Revenue is away from the headquarters.

*Sea erosion*

* 2477 *Q.*—SRI T. SHANMUGHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a serious sea erosion has taken place at Tiruvottiyur, Madras;

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government have taken to prevent further erosion; and

(*c*) if so, with what result?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The execution of protective works in the first reach of 3,500 feet from the Obelisk near Cassimode to the Sewage outfall in the first instance is under consideration. The execution of

protective works in the second and third reaches of 4,600 feet from the Sewage outfall to the end of the Corporation limits and $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the City limit up to Ennore will be considered in due course.

11-20 a.m SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR: What will be the total cost of land, cultivable or otherwise, that will be affected as a result of this sea erosion?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: A separate question may be put, Sir.

* 2478 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken so far either by this Government or this Government in conjunction with the Central Government, to prevent sea erosion at Dhanushkodi?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: This Government on the suggestion of the Chief Engineer, requested the Government of India, Ministry of Transport, to depute a specialist to inspect the locality and suggest ways and means of combating erosion of land by the sea.

The Government of India had stated in reply in May 1955 that the question of selecting an alternative site for the railway pier at Dhanushkodi had been referred to an Expert Technical Committee whose report was being awaited and that meanwhile, in order to prevent heavy erosion, they had sanctioned the work of constructing three groynes at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,537 and the work was expected to be completed before the south-west monsoon this year. They also stated that the effect of this remedial measure was to be ascertained before taking further steps in the matter. The Collector of Ramanathapuram has reported under date 17th August 1955 that three casuarina pile groynes extending to 150 feet into the sea and 220 feet along the seashore on the southern side of the Public Works Department buildings at Dhanushkodi were built by the railway authorities as an experiment but these have been washed off.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, this problem being a continuous one, will the Government take expert advice in the matter and prepare a long-range plan instead of considering temporary measures?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: Yes, Sir. The Central Government have referred the matter to an expert committee and we are awaiting their suggestion in the matter.